

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

September 2015
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ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA Presidents

Message September

Yes...I know...I'm sounding like a broken record when I say, "It's hard to believe that it's September already." Four more months and we will start adjusting to writing 2016! I know. "Steve...don't rush it!"

A significant aspect of our hobby that recently became very evident is the comradery, friendship, and sense of community. The cool thing about ham radio is that it attracts people from all walks of life. It's similar to my bike club...the Fremont Freewheelers. Although we share the same hobby, which gives us something in common to share, we also have all kinds of other things to talk about...depending on other hobbies and careers. [NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next SBARA meeting is "HOBBY." Write this word down on a piece of paper and hand it to Ray at the raffle table for a free ticket. Limit one ticket per person.] Whether it be software, hardware, electronics, photography, or cars. I've always said that the cool thing about ham radio is that whenever you chat with another ham, you immediately have something in common to talk about...ham radio! But it's even more fun to chat with another ham, whether on a local repeater or HF, to find someone who shares another hobby, career, or topic of interest with you.

I've written, in the past, about elmering. This is another aspect of the hobby that I find rewarding...whether as a recipient of new information, as I love learning new things, or sharing my own knowledge with others.

The comradely, friendship, and community also come into play when helping others in need. One example is when fellow hams come together to help erect a tower or antenna. Another example is when Erlene Campbell reached out to SBARA for help when her husband, David (WE6EBR) suddenly passed. David had not been a member of SBARA for very long, but he had shared his enthusiasm for the club with his wife. Al Rendon (WT6K), Bernhard Haeler (AE6YN), and I went over and dismantled the shack, took down the antennas, and removed everything from the premises. Bernhard was kind enough to provide space in his garage while we set out to sell the equipment with proceeds going back to Erlene. David Campbell was also into wood working. I put Greg Miller (WY6P) in touch with her regarding some power tools. Erlene mentioned that Greg visited her with his landlord, who is a contractor. Erlene said that Greg's landlord ended up helping her with replacing the subfloor in her trailer, as she had a water leak from the air conditioner that she wasn't aware of. The bottom line...through her husband's hobby, she got help with moving and selling his equipment as well as help with her floor. I think that's a cool story. We all enjoyed helping her and she was quite thankful.

Ham radio is a pretty cool hobby! I appreciate all of the technical aspects of the hobby...but also the friends I have met and experiences I continue to have through the hobby.

73!
Steve KG6HJU
SBARA President



The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301 in the US House of Representative and S 1685 in the US Senate -- would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land use restrictions. US Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) introduced HR 1301 on March 4 with 12 original cosponsors from both sides of the aisle -- seven Republicans and five Democrats in the US House. US Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) introduced S 1685 on June 25, with Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) as the original cosponsor, into the US Senate.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act would require the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to apply the three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to include homeowners association regulations and deed restrictions, often referred to as "covenants, conditions, and restrictions" (CC&Rs). At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and

ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to include private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

H.R. 1301 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. **S 1685** has been referred to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee's subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, which is chaired by the bill's sponsor, Wicker.

ARRL members are urged to contact their members of both the House and the Senate, asking them to sign on to the bill as a co-sponsor. Route letters for your member of Congress to:

ARRL

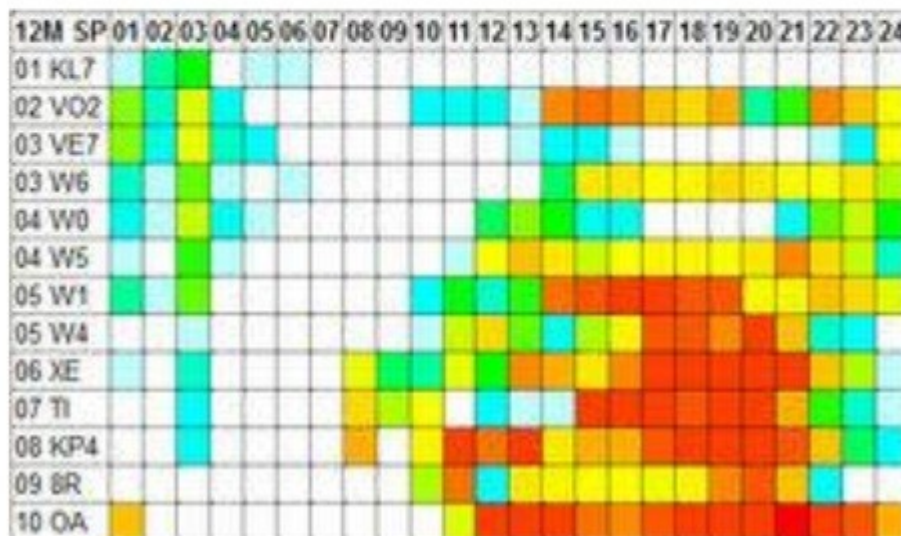
Attn Amateur Radio Parity Act grassroots campaign

225 Main St

Newington CT 06111

User– Friendly VOACAP Planner

New, User-Friendly VOACAP Propagation Planner Debuts: A revamped online service, [VOACAP Propagation Planner](#), a comprehensive, free-of-charge planning tool for HF contesters and DXers, is now available. The more user-friendly beta version 2.0 does all the heavy lifting and number crunching on the VOACAP server and displays the results graphically by CQ or ITU zones (short-path or long-path) and by band-specific zone charts (also short-path or long-path). Tables can easily be copied into word processing software. [More information](#) is available at The Official VOACAP Blog. -- Thanks to Jari Perkiömäki, OH6BG



Works Great on cleaning old Chassis—Less Scrubbing !

Boeshield T-9

Have you seen this product for cleaning metal? It was formulated by Boeing to clean aluminum and it works great on old chassis if you are restoring anything. It's available at Sears, but you can also pick it up at Amazon. As a disclaimer, I do not own Boeing Aircraft Corporation and I do not profit from the sale of this product but if I needed to clean my old 747 I would use this product. For that application you may need more than one can.

<http://www.sears.com/boeshield-t-9-rust-protection-cleaner/p-00928468000P>



Reflections; Pale Blue Dot

Carl Sagan titled his 1994 book *Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space* after the photograph. In it, he expresses his thoughts on a deeper meaning of the image. *{An image of*

Earth taken from the Voyager 1 spacecraft at a distance of ~3,762,146,000 miles away, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pale_Blue_Dot.}

From this distant vantage point, the Earth might not seem of any particular interest. But for us, it's different. Consider again that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their

lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and

peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the

history of our species lived there - on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors

so that in glory and triumph they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner. How frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another,

how fervent their hatreds. Our posturings, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity - in all this vastness - there is no hint that help will come

from elsewhere to save us from ourselves. The Earth is the only world known, so far, to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment, the Earth is where we make our stand. It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known.



A Reminder — FCC Universal Licensing System Down for Maintenance

September 2-8

[UPDATED 2015-09-01 2125

UTC] The FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) and other FCC website public applications are down for maintenance and will be unavailable from 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2, until 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. The outage also will affect the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) and the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS). During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications, including examination session documents, or conduct any license or application searches.

While the requirement to pay a regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will end on September 3, prospective vanity applicants now will have to wait until after 1200 UTC on September 8 to file an application for an available call sign. The FCC has told ARRL that the approximately 18-day vanity call sign waiting period will remain in place "for now."

The FCC said on September 1 that its *Daily Digest* will be "paused" from September 3 or 4, but will resume "when the systems are available again."

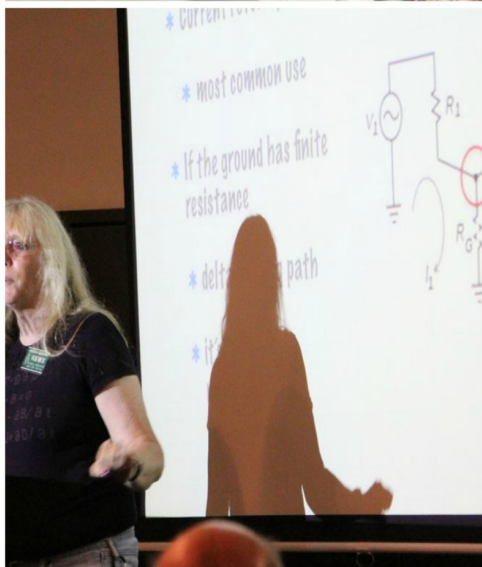
"The FCC does not plan to release any official documents during the IT upgrades," the FCC said this week. "That said, the Commission will have in place a mechanism to allow for a hard copy release of an item should there be a pressing need. Any such releases that would ordinarily appear in the *Daily Digest* will be included in the *Daily Digest* when it is next issued."

"Thank you for your patience, and we apologize for any inconvenience."

The FCC's August 20 *Public Notice* has complete details on the planned outage.



July Meeting Memories



August Meeting Memories

Upcoming SBARA Events

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



SBARA Action Packed Meeting is September 11th.! Fantastic Raffle Prizes—So Come to the Meeting for the Fellowship!

Amateur Exams

ARRL VEC— September 12th @ 9:00am at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact: Greg** at wy6pradio@gmail.com \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Additional information is described at the SBARA's Website, www.sbara.org
Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA
The Ground Plane — KU6S
<http://www.sbara.org>
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PLEASE
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